(c) whether there was a possibility of catching fire due to leakage in Mathura also;

(d) whether an enquiry in all these incidents has been conducted;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) whether any action has been taken against any body or anyone has been punished for these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) There has been no incident of leakage reported from any of the locations of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years in the country including the State of Jharkhand.

There was no incidence of leakage at Mathura installation. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that, there was only a minor flash on 31.10.2009 in the delicensed area resulting in smoke. The situation was brought under control immediately and the incident was over in 30 seconds.

Status of IPI gas pipeline

2115. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Iran- Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project;

(b) whether it is a fact that satisfactory progress has not been made in the discussions with Iran and Pakistan on this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that China has shown interest in this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, *viz*., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) and (c) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project.

(d) and (e) No official communication has been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline project.

Oil security

2116. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to address the issues of energy and oil security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government regarding the strategic storages of crude oil; and

(d) the details of annual consumption of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (b) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vi) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(c) In September, 2005; the Government decided to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) capacity at 3 locations *viz*., Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) through the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a 100% subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The capacity at Vizag is proposed to be enhanced from 1 MMT to 1.3 MMT. This strategic storage of crude oil would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products maintained by the oil companies.

(d) The consumption of crude oil, as measured by crude through put of refineries, in the country during last 3 years is as given below:

Year	Quantity (MMT)
2006-07	141.46
2007-08	150.81
2008-09	160.71